

Notes on Loricata
8. Description of a new *Acanthochitona*
species from the Bay of Bengal

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Mrs. K.M. Way, British Museum (Natural History), London, was so kind as to grant me the loan of a small series of chitons from the Bay of Bengal (Ceylon: Trincomali, and the Andaman Archipelago), which were labelled "*Notoplax alisonae*" by the late R. Winckworth.

The specimens are indeed conspecific and represent a species recognized as new to science by Mr. Winckworth, who intended to name it after his second wife, Elsie, to whom he was married on April 2nd, 1943. Her full maiden name was Alison Mary Cruickshank. Out of respect for the learned malacologist whose contributions to our present knowledge of recent Mollusca have been very important, I wish to retain the epitheton specificum proposed by Winckworth.

The name *Notoplax* cannot be used for reasons I pointed out elsewhere (Kaas, 1972: 40). The new species may be named and described as follows:

Acanthochitona alisonae (Winckworth MS) nov. sp. (figs. 1-6)

Material, preserved dry in the British Museum (Natural History):

- a. No locality mentioned: 25.I.1925, Dr. Tuticorn leg., 1 specimen, 6.3 x 3.7 mm;

- b. No locality mentioned: 20.III.1938, Dr. P.B. Manaar leg., 1 specimen, 6.3×3.8 mm, some valves broken;
- c. Andaman Islands: Inglis Sound, Ritchie's Archipelago, 5.IV.1939, 1 specimen, 10.5×5.2 mm;
- d. Andaman Islands: Port Blair, III.1936, 1 specimen, 6.7×4.3 mm;
- e. Ceylon: Trincomali, 29.IX.1929, 2 specimens, 16.0×9.1 mm (holotype), and 11.1×6.8 mm; also 6 valves.

Animal elongate oval, moderately elevated, with a very wide girdle encroaching at the sutures.

Head valve semi-circular, articulamentum large, divided into six equal insertion plates by the usual five slits. There is no trace of radial ribs corresponding to the slits. The tegmentum is covered with rather large tear-shaped granules, flat or slightly concave, arranged in series radiating from the top.

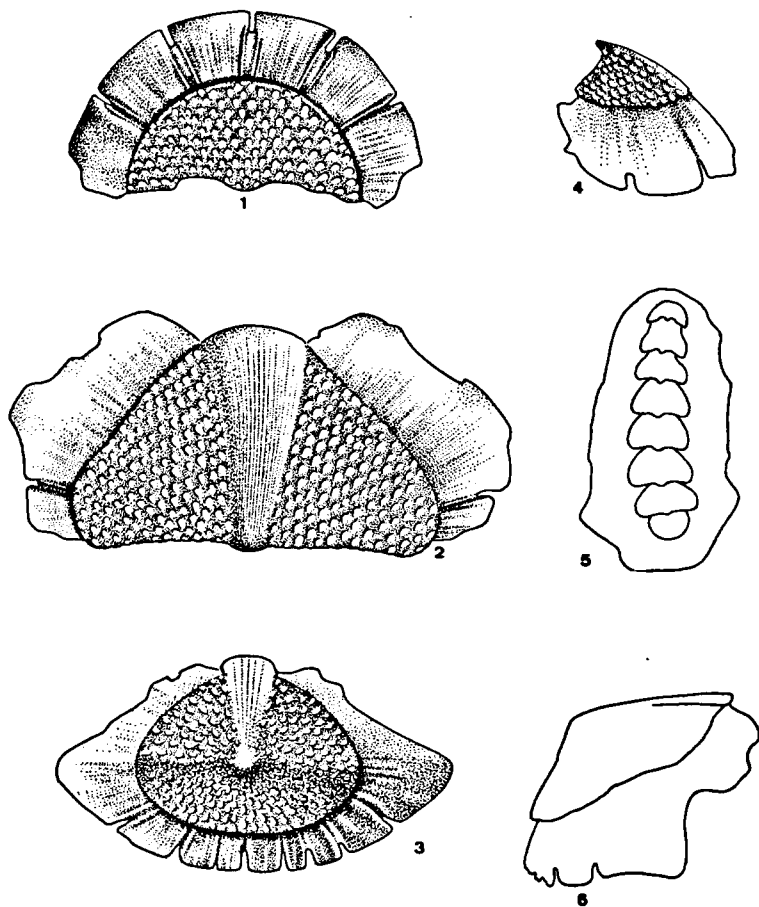
The tegmentum of the intermediate valves is about triangular or pentagonal, the posterior margin straight or nearly so, with a decidedly raised jugal area, sharply separated from the pleurae, rather smooth, with about 14 fine longitudinal grooves interrupted by irregular transverse lines of growth. There is no trace of ribs dividing the pleural from the lateral areas: the sides of the tegmentum are evenly granulose. The granules are rather distant, arranged in curved series diverging from the jugum to the side-margins. All valves are decidedly beaked.

Tail valve rather small, wider than long, the mucro not prominent, slightly behind the centre, posterior slope straight, articulamentum large, the insertion plates striated, with 6-8 irregular, inequidistant slits.

The colour of the tegmentum is variegated, the granules differing widely: some are greenish grey, others brown, yellowish, or white. The ground colour is pale roseate, as a result of the articulamentum showing through. Inside of all valves rose-pink.

Girdle wide, encroaching at the sutures but never separating the valves, densely spinose; spicules of the dorsal side brownish, white, yellow or violet, those of the ventral side white to yellowish, a little shorter than the dorsal ones. All spicules are smooth, sharply pointed. Sutural tufts hardly or not recognizable in dried specimens. They consist of few (10-20) whitish spicules, not rising above the surface of the girdle. There is no fringe of longer spicules present.

Length 16.0 mm, breadth 9.1 mm (holotype).



Figs. 1-6. *Acanthochitona alisonae* n. sp., holotype (fig. 5) and paratype (figs. 1-4, 6), Trincomali, Ceylon, in British Museum (Natural History). 1. Head valve. 2. Valve IV. 3. Tail valve. 4. Head valve, lateral view. 5. Camera lucida outline of holotype. 6. Tail valve, lateral view. Figs. 1-4 approximately $\times 12$, fig. 5 approximately $\times 2.3$, fig. 6 approximately $\times 16$. H. Heyn del.

Sykes (1903) gave a description of a collection of chitons from the Gulf of Manaar, Ceylon, in which he only made mention of one acanthochitonoid, viz., *Acanthochitona penicillata* (Deshayes, 1863), originally described from the island of Réunion, but widely distributed throughout the Indo-Pacific region. It is, however, totally different from the present species.

From the Andaman Islands Winckworth (1933) described *Acanthochitona penetrans*, a very small, elongate species, living in holes made by boring animals in old shells. I possess a few specimens of *A. penetrans* which were found in an old *Tridacna*-valve from near Sabang, Indonesia.

A. alisonae belongs to the group of *Acanthochitona* with a multislit sail valve, such as the Australian group of *A. wilsoni* (Sykes, 1896), etc., though these are totally different. In fact there are no near relatives to which *A. alisonae* may be compared, which makes the species easily recognizable.

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